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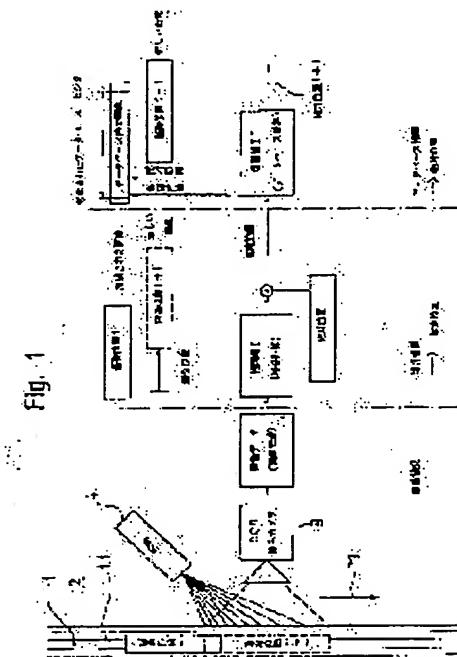
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(54) METHOD FOR GENERATING ELEVATOR SHAFT INFORMATION TO CONDUCT ELEVATOR CONTROL

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for avoiding defects of known devices, and a system and a method for assuring generation of elevator shaft information usable for elevator control in any case.

SOLUTION: In the system for generating the elevator shaft information, an image of a surface of a guide rail 1 is recorded using a CCD linear camera 3, and an absolute position of an elevator cage is determined based on a surface pattern read from the image. Image data is inputted to a first correlation device I using an increment position of a new image and an absolute position i of a preceding image to generate an estimated position to be inputted to a second correlation device II. The estimated position is used for searching a related data base sector where an image stored in a data base is positioned at the time of calibration. The second correlation device II compares the new image with the stored image, and determines the absolute position $i+1$ to be transmitted to an elevator control means based on a position index of the stored image.



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「特許申請の請求」

1から明らかになっている。エレベータ昇降装置内には、コード付きの反対版が配置されている。停止位置の近傍にコード付きのトラックを持つ。このコードは、二つの前にトラックを持つ。アーム接点の場合は可能な停止位置の近ゾーンは、水槽アームの停止位置に存在する。ローラーの停止位置が駆動されながらケーブルアームの停止位置に存在する。

| 審査請求 | | 未請求 | 請求項の数 8 | OL | 外国籍出願 (全 24 頁) |
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| (21)出願番号 | 特願2002-276384 (2002-27638) | (71)出願人 | 3500407229 | インベンティオ・アクティエンゲゼレシャ フト | |
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問題が発生するシステムと方法を示す解法を述べよう。

【00005】 「問題を解決するための手段」本発明によって達成され
る利点は主として、昇降装置内に追加設備を必要としない
ことと見られる。それによつてエレベータの駆動時間
は、十倍に短縮することができる。センターを設置して
は、エレベーターに分配される分析装置は、昇降装置情報
を発生するに十分である。高い解像度と極めて高い動
作音韻性とを有する安価な昇降装置情報システムは、エレ
ベータの停止時に絶対位置を与える。更
に、この昇降装置情報システムは既に、エレベータケージ
の走行を行わずに、運転開始時に絶対位置を与える。更
に、エレベータケージ内に存在する構造物によって実現可能であ
る。この昇降装置情報システムは、フロアの停止位置を記憶することができる
。また從来から例えばブレーキ動作、ドアゾーン、非
常停止、その他に使用された昇降装置イフチをシリユ
ートすることができる。したがって本システムは、既存
のエレベータ制御システムに適合可能である。

【00006】 本発明は、添付の図面を参照しながら詳細
に説明される。

【00007】

〔発明の実施の形態〕図1は、本発明による昇降階構造を示す。

〔従来の技術〕エレベータ昇降路から昇降路付近に、

卷之三

〔従来の技術〕エレベータ昇降路から昇降路付

卷之三

（00005）ですが、これは、エレベータ昇降路2内に配置され、昇降装置の操作装置と見なされており、またガイドレール面1、1-1を含めて、エレベータ昇降路2内を走行可能なエレベーターケージを含む。エレベーターケージの内部に配置される、エレベーターケージの方向は、チゼルP1によって示される。
（00006）この配列では、レンズ部とCCD構造センサー部とを有するCCD構造カメラ3が配置されている。CCD構造センサー部は、エレベーターケージの走行方向P1に沿って配置されており、例えば12.8間のイメージ要素を持つ。
（00007）定して、例えば走行方向P1に沿って測定する際には、レンズ部とCCD構造センサー部とを有するCCD構造カメラ3が配置されている。CCD構造センサー部は、エレベーターケージの走行方向P1に沿って測定される。映像は、ガイドレールの2cm区間の画像が形成される。映像は、ガイドレール区間の表面構造または表面パターンを示す。CCD構造センサー部は、例えば高速で移動するエレベーターケージ上で、1000Hzの画像取得頻度で動作することが可能である。イメージ要素を入射する光は電前に変換される。電流は、CCD構造カメラ3で分析され、コンピュータ4に伝送される画像データに変換される。
（00008）照明白4は、記録されるガイドレール区間を表面構造または表面パターンで示す。ガイドレール区間の端部から反射した光は、CCD構造センサー部のイメージセンサに映像電気信号に変換される。画像品質を改善するために、照明白4はフラッシュLED10またはハロゲンランプ11を使用することができます。
（00009）画像品質は、デジタルフィルタリングおよびノイズは幾つかの画像処理方法によって更に改善することができます。ガイドレール1の表面構造または表面パターンの代わりに、例えばエレベータ昇降路2の壁の表面構造または表面パターン、あるいはエレベータ昇降路2の構造部品（脚製の際）の表面構造または表面部品1-1をCCD構造カメラ3によって記録することもできます。ガイドレール、壁、または構造部品は本来、距離感覚情報を発生させる働きを有するのではなく、エレベーターケージおよびまたは対向する車両の案内およびまたは支持、または建物の部分の支持という通常の役目を行っているのである。
（00010）昇降装置情報システムを較正するために、エレベータ昇降路2内を走行される。この正走行時に、CCD構造カメラ3によって記録された表面構造または表面パターンは、位置インデックスと共にコンピュータ4のメモリに書き込まれる。プロアの停止位置を決定するために、エレベーターケージは所望の高さにまで驱动され、位置がシステムによって読み取られ、フロアの基準値として記憶される。
（00011）安全性を高めるために、冗長な二つのシステムを設けることができる。一方のシステムは一方のガイドレールの表面構造または表面パターンを記録し、他方のシステムは記録する。変形して表面構造または表面パターンを記録する。

卷之三

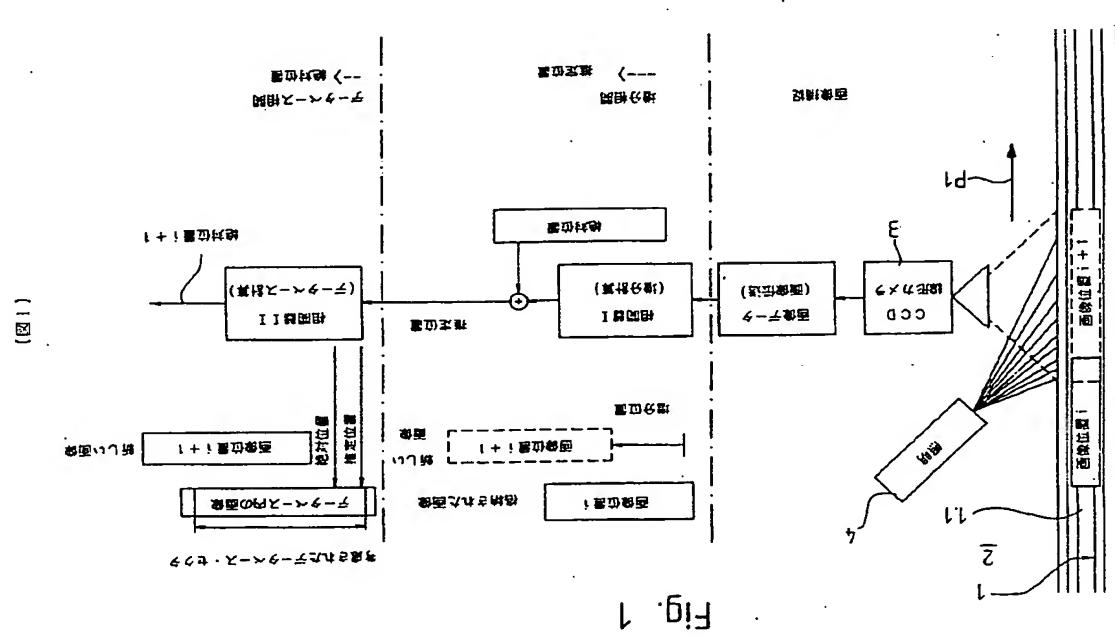


Fig. 1

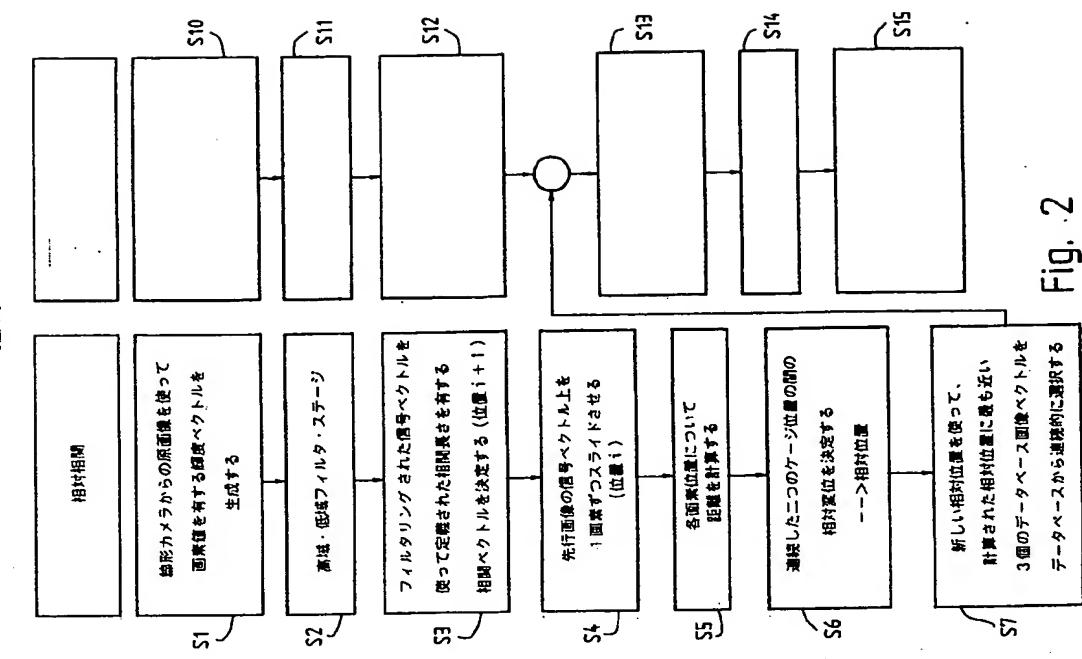
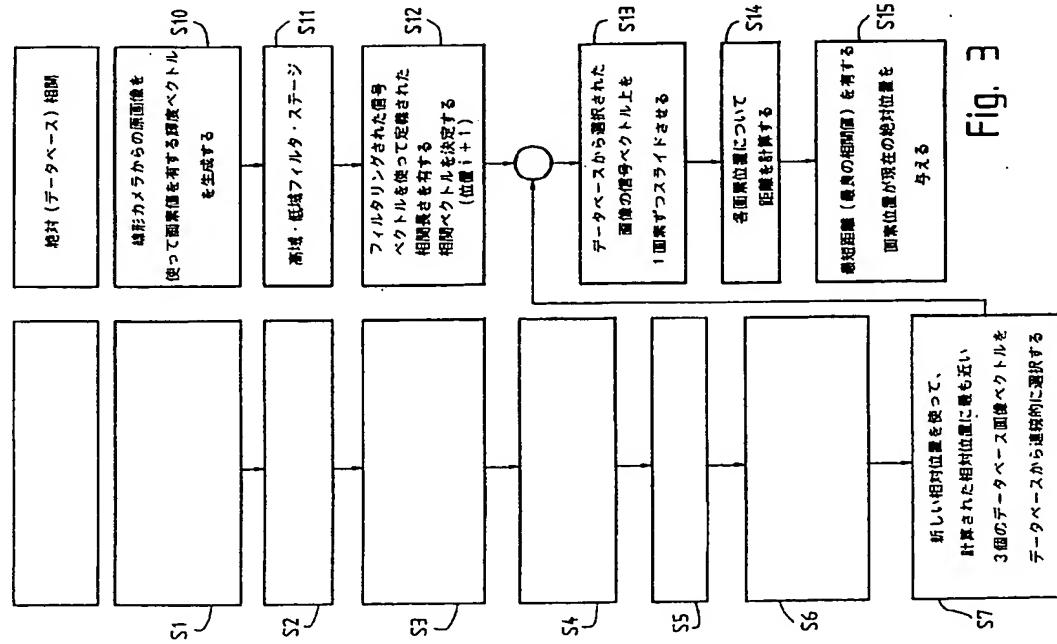


Fig. 2

[回3]



三
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[外國語明細書]

1. Title of Invention
Method of Generating Hoistway Information to Serve an

Elevator Control

2. Claims

1. Method of generating, to serve an elevator control, hoistway information from an elevator hoistway with an elevator car which can travel in an elevator hoistway, the hoistway information being generated from pictorially recognizable patterns, characterized in that

the hoistway information is generated from patterns present in the elevator hoistway, the surface structure of components or equipment in the hoistway which serve other functions being used as patterns.

2. Method according to Claim 1,

characterized in that

from the patterns which are recorded sector by sector images are generated, and a relative position of a current image to a preceding image, and an absolute position of the current image, are determined.

3. Method according to Claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that

from the overlap of an image of position $i+1$ with an image of position i a relative position is determined, and with the relative position and absolute position of the image i an estimated position is determined, which serves to locate a sector of an image database, and from a comparison of the located database image with the current image the absolute position of the current image is determined.

4. Method according to Claim 3,

characterized in that determination of the position takes place by means of a comparison of the individual pixels of the image.. the distance from the current pixel to a previously known pixel serving as criterion for determining the position.

5. Method according to Claim 3 or 4,

characterized in that to check the positions a reliability value is determined.

6. Method according to Claims 3 to 5,

characterized in that to generate the image database the elevator hoistway is traveled through and the patterns which are recorded are assigned a position index and stored in the image database.

7. Method according to one of the foregoing claims,

characterized in that the surface structure of a guideway arranged in the elevator hoistway, or the walls of the elevator hoistway, is used as a pattern.

8. Method according to one of the foregoing claims,

characterized in that at least one system comprising a CCD line camera and a processor with memory records the patterns and determines the positions.

3. Detailed Description of Invention

The invention relates to a method of generating, to serve an elevator control, hoistway information from an elevator hoistway with an elevator car which can travel in an elevator hoistway, the hoistway information being generated from pictorially recognizable patterns.

From patent specification EP 0 722 903 B1 a device for generating hoistway information from an elevator hoistway has become known. In the elevator hoistway a reflector with a code is arranged in the vicinity of a stop. The code has two identical tracks. An approach zone of a stop, in which bridging of door contacts is allowed, lies half above and half below a leveling line. An adjusting zone, in which adjustment of an elevator car which is too low due to rope stretch is allowed with open car doors, lies half above and half below the leveling line. The code of the tracks is read and analyzed by a 2-channel analyzing device arranged on the elevator car. Transmitters of the analyzing device illuminate the tracks of a reflector. The illuminated surfaces of the tracks are captured on CCD sensors of the analyzing devices and imaged by means of a pattern recognition logic. Transformation of the images into information to serve the elevator control takes place by means of a computing device.

A disadvantage of the known device is that to generate patterns a code strip arranged in the elevator hoistway is necessary. The code strip must be arranged in the elevator hoistway precisely and without excessive stretching. Furthermore, it is not guaranteed that the code strip will not wholly or partly separate from the underlying surface. Incorrect mounting or detachment of the code strip results in no, or incorrect, patterns.

It is here that the invention sets out to provide a remedy. The invention, as characterized in Claim 1, provides a solution for avoiding the disadvantages of the known device and proposing a system and a method with which generation of hoistway information serving an elevator control is guaranteed in all cases.

The advantages achieved by means of the invention are mainly to be seen in that no additional installation is needed in the hoistway. The installation time for the elevator can thereby be substantially shortened. An analyzing device provided with sensors and arranged on the elevator car surfaces to generate the hoistway information. A very reliably operating and inexpensive hoistway information system with high resolution can be realized with the structures present in the elevator hoistway. The hoistway information system already delivers an absolute position at startup without the elevator car traveling. Moreover, the system can store floor stopping positions and simulate the hoistway switches used hitherto for, for example, brake application, door zones, and

emergency stopping, or other hoistway switches. The system is therefore compatible with existing elevator controls.

The present invention is described in more detail by reference to the attached figures.

Fig. 1 shows the system according to the invention for generating hoistway information. 1 indicates a guiderail which is arranged in an elevator hoistway 2 and considered as hoistway equipment, and which has a guiderail face 1.1 and which serves to guide an elevator car able to travel in the elevator hoistway 2. The momentary direction of travel of the elevator car is indicated with an arrow P1.

Arranged on the elevator car is a CCD line camera 3 with a lens system and a CCD line sensor. The CCD line sensor is arranged in the direction of travel P1 of the elevator car

and has, for example, 128 image elements. In this arrangement a section of, for example, the face 1.1 of the guiderail 1 with a length of, for example, 2 cm measured in the direction of travel P1, can be recorded. An image of the 2 cm section of the guiderail 1 is formed. The image shows the surface structure, or surface pattern, of the guiderail section. The CCD line sensor can, for example, on fast-moving elevator cars, be operated with an

image frequency of 1000 Hz, the light falling on the image elements being converted into electric charges. The electric charges are analyzed in the CCD line camera 3 and converted into image data which is transferred to a computer.

Lighting 4 shines onto the guiderail section to be recorded, the light reflected from the guiderail section being converted into electric charges of the image elements of the CCD line sensor. To improve the image quality, flashed LEDs or halogen lamps can be used for the lighting 4.

The image quality can be further improved by digital filtering and/or by certain methods of image processing. Instead of the surface structure or surface pattern of the guiderail 1, it is possible for, for example, the surface structure or surface pattern of the wall of the elevator hoistway 2, or the surface structure or surface pattern of constructional parts (steel girders) of the elevator hoistway 2, to be recorded by the CCD line camera 3. Guiderails, walls, or constructional parts do not serve primarily to generate hoistway information but fulfill

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their usual task of guiding and/or supporting the elevator car and/or counterweight or supporting parts of the building.

To calibrate the hoistway information system, the elevator hoistway 2 is traveled through. During this calibration travel, the surface structure or surface pattern recorded by the CCD line camera 3 is written in the memory of the computer together with a position index. To determine the stopping position for a floor, the elevator car is driven to the desired height, the position read by the system, and stored as reference value for the floor.

To increase safety, two redundant systems can be provided. One system records the surface structure or surface pattern of the one guiderail, the other system records the surface structure or surface pattern of the other guiderail. As a variant, both systems can record the surface structure or surface pattern of the same guiderail. The output signals of the one system can be used as training signal for the other system, and vice versa. If the surface structure or surface pattern of the one guiderail has changed since calibration, the new surface structure or the new surface pattern can be given the position data of the other system.

In Fig. 1 the image of the surface structure or surface pattern of the guiderail section of position 1 is represented by a continuous line, the image having already been recorded and the related absolute position determined. Fig. 1 shows the procedure for determining the

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image of the surface structure or surface pattern of the guiderail section of position $i+1$. The new image with position $i+1$ is represented by a broken line and overlaps the image of position i . The image data are transferred to the computer with memory (not shown). A first correlator I of the computer, realized with software, calculates from the image of position i and the new image of position $i+1$ an incremental or relative position, and from this, by using the absolute position i , an estimated position. The estimated position of the image with position $i+1$ is transferred to a second correlator II of the computer, realized with software, which uses the estimated position to locate the relevant section of the database in which the image written during calibration lies. As explained above, the stored image is provided with a position index. The correlator II compares the new image of position $i+1$ with the stored image, and determines from the position index the absolute position $i+1$, which is transferred to the elevator control.

Changes in the surface structure or surface pattern of the guiderail 1 which have occurred during operation of the elevator can be continuously re-learnt by the database. When changes occur on the surface of the guiderail, the new images of the guiderail 1 used for the incremental correlation are taken adaptively from the database.

As explained above, a CCD line camera 3 is provided with a lens system and a CCD line sensor. Instead of the line sensor, a two-dimensional surface sensor can also be provided. The image elements of the dimension

perpendicular to the direction of travel are averaged, which results in a one-dimensional brightness profile.

The speed v of the elevator car can be determined from the difference between position p_1 at instant t_1 and position p_2 at instant t_2 :

$$v = (p_2 - p_1) / (t_2 - t_1).$$

Instead of the CCD line camera 3, a dual-sensor system can also be used with two LEDs as light sources and two photodiodes as brightness detectors. When the elevator is traveling, the one signal is a time-delayed copy of the other signal. The two signals can be compared using correlation methods, and the speed of the elevator car can be determined from the time delay and the distance between the sensors. The position can be determined both by integration of the speed and by comparison with the data which was stored during calibration and subsequently continuously corrected.

In principle the correlation (correlator 1 or correlator II) compares a current image with a reference image. A correlation window is first extracted and then slid over the reference image pixel-by-pixel. For each pixel in the window, the difference in the pixel gray value is determined, and then the sum of their squares is calculated. This method of calculation determines the length of the difference vector between two image vectors which correspond to the one-dimensional images.

The pixel-by-pixel calculation of correlation values also makes it possible to derive a reliability value. At the corresponding point the correlation values are at a minimum, because two quasi-identical images have a distance approximating to zero. To calculate a reliability value ZW the absolute minimum AM , the second-best minimum zM , and the standard deviation S over the entire correlation length are used. In practical use, values of ZW between six and ten occur with a threshold of, for example, five being used:

$$ZW = (zM - AM)/S.$$

A very good reliability value occurs at lower speeds of the elevator car, the incremental correlation (two successive images with overlap) and the database correlation (complete image of the guiderail surface in the database) being good.

If the guiderail surface has undergone change, a good reliability value occurs at lower speeds of the elevator car, the incremental correlation (two successive images with overlap) being good, and the database correlation (incomplete representation of the guiderail surface in the database) being poor.

If the guiderail surface has not undergone change, a good reliability value occurs at higher speeds of the elevator car, the incremental correlation (two successive images with hardly usable overlap) being poor, and the database

correlation (complete representation of the guiderrail surface in the database) being good.

If the guiderrail surface has undergone change, a poor reliability value occurs at higher speeds of the elevator car, the incremental correlation (two successive images with hardly usable overlap) being poor, and the database correlation (incomplete representation of the guiderrail surface in the database) being poor.

Fig. 2 shows the procedure for determining an incremental, or relative, position of a recorded section of, for example, the guiderrail. The first correlator I, realized in software, of the computer calculates from the image of position i and the new image of position i+1 an incremental, or relative, position. In a first step S1, a one-dimensional image with picture elements, or pixels, is extracted or generated from the image data of the CCD line camera 3. Following this, in step S2, the image, which is also referred to as an image vector or brightness vector, is then taken through a high-pass and low-pass filter stage. By processing the image vector or brightness vector with a high-pass filter, external disturbing influences regarding the illumination profile are suppressed. By processing the image vector or brightness vector with a low-pass filter, thermal noise of the CCD line camera is eliminated. In step 3, a correlation window or correlation vector with defined length is taken from the processed image vector or brightness vector of position i+1, the correlation window in step S4 being slid over the image vector of the preceding image i. In step S5, the distance

between pixel i+1 and pixel i is calculated for each pixel. After this, in step S6, the relative displacement between the image of position i and the image of position i+1 is determined. In Fig. 1 the relative position is designated as the incremental position. In step S7, the relative position is added to the preceding absolute position i. The new absolute position, which in Fig. 1 is designated as the absolute position, is the reference for locating the relevant section of the database. In step S7, three, for example, of the image vectors of the image database which are closest to the new absolute position are selected and input to the process shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 3 shows the process for determining an absolute position of a recorded section of, for example, the guiderrail. The second correlator II of the computer, realized with software, calculates from the image of position i and the new image of position i+1 an absolute position. In a tenth step S10, a one-dimensional image with picture elements, or pixels, is extracted or generated from the image data of the CCD line camera 3. Following this, in step S11, the image, which is also referred to as an image vector or brightness vector, is then taken through a high-pass and low-pass filter stage. By processing the image vector or brightness vector with a high-pass filter, external disturbing influences regarding the illumination profile are suppressed. By processing the image vector or brightness vector with a low-pass filter, thermal noise of the CCD line camera is eliminated. In step 12, a correlation window or correlation vector with defined length is taken from the processed image vector or

brightness vector of position $i+1$, the correlation window in step S13 being slid over the image vectors taken from the image database in step S7. In step S14, the distance between pixel $i+1$ and pixels taken from the image database is calculated for each pixel. Following this, in step S15, the pixel $i+1$ with the smallest distance is determined, and from this results the current actual position.

4. Brief Description of Drawings

Fig. 1: a schematic representation of the system according to the invention.

Fig. 2:

the procedure for determining an incremental or relative position of a recorded section of a hoistway structure.

Fig. 3: the procedure for determining an absolute position of a recorded section.

Fig. 1

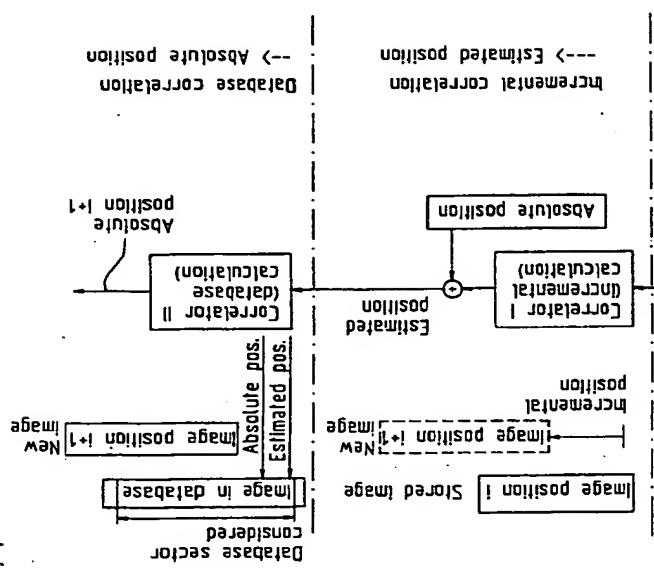


Fig. 1

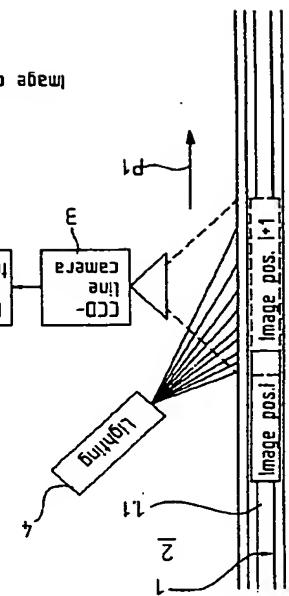


Fig. 2

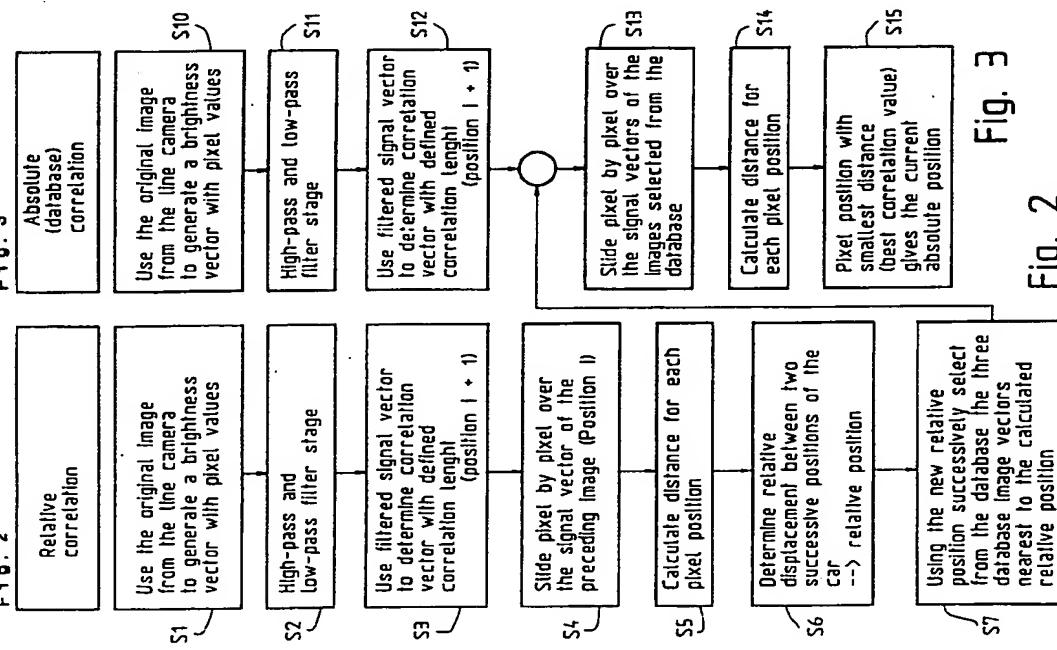


Fig. 3

1. Abstract

In this system for generating hoistway information, images of the surface of a guiderail (1) are recorded by means of a CCD line camera (3), and from the surface patterns which can be read from the images, the absolute position of the elevator car is determined. The image data are input into a first correlator (11) which uses an incremental position of a new image and an absolute position (1) of a preceding image to generate an estimated position which is input into a second correlator (11). The estimated position is used to locate the relevant database sector in which the image which was stored in the database during calibration is situated. The second correlator (11) compares the new image with the stored image and determines from the position index of the stored image the absolute position (1+1) which is transmitted to the elevator control.

2. Representative Drawing

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

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